

Message Text

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11

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-02 AEC-11 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00

CIEP-02 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11 FPC-01 H-03 INR-10

INT-08 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 OMB-01 PM-07 RSC-01 SAM-01

SCI-06 SP-03 SS-20 STR-08 TRSE-00 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15

EUR-25 DRC-01 /192 W

----- 105223

R 020710Z JUL 74

FM AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2695

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

UNCLAS LOURENCO MARQUES 0530

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN, ENRG, MZ

SUBJECT: FOREIGN EXCHANGE SHORTAGE: IMPORT SUSPENSION
EXTENDED, REFINERY TEMPORARILY CLOSING

REF: (A) LOURENCO MARQUES 477 (NOTAL); (B) LOURENCO
MARQUES 458 AND 525 (NOTAL)

1. IN MID-JUNE, IT WAS ANNOUNCED THAT REQUESTS FOR IMPORT
BULLETINS, EXCEPT FOR CERTAIN LIMITED CATEGORIES (E.G.,
PETROLEUM, MEDICINES, INSECTICIDES, BABY FOOD, SCHOOL TEXT-
BOOKS, AND SPARE PARTS) WOULD NOT BE ACCEPTED UNTIL JULY 1
(REF A). THIS SUSPENSION HAS NOW BEEN EXTENDED TO JULY 14,
BECAUSE OF THE CONTINUED FOREIGN EXCHANGE SHORTAGE. THE
MOZAMBIQUE COMMERCIAL SERVICES HAVE ALSO ASKED IMPORTERS
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TO LIMIT THEIR REQUESTS TO ABSOLUTE ESSENTIALS, AND TO

PRESENT A LIST OF THEIR EARLIER (AND NOW PENDING) REQUESTS
IN ORDER OF PRIORITY.

2. THE SONAREP REFINERY, WHICH PRODUCES VIRTUALLY ALL OF
MOZAMBIQUE'S PETROLEUM PRODUCTS (AS WELL AS MUCH GASOLINE
FOR EXPORT) IS CLOSING DOWN FROM JUNE 30-JULY 10, BECAUSE
LACK OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE CAUSED A SUSPENSEION OF DELIVERIES
OF CRUDE OIL (NEXT SHIPMENT IS EXPECTED TO ARRIVE ABOUT
JULY 10). THIS IS CAUSING A SERIOUS SHORTAGE OF BUTANE GAS
FOR COOKING -- SONAREP IS IMPORTING SOME 16 TONS PER DAY
FROM SOUTH AFRICA, BUT THIS COVERS ONLY ABOUT HALF OF NORMAL
DEMAND. RESERVES OF OTHER PETROLEUM PRODUCTS ARE APPARENTLY
SUFFICIENT TO COVER THE 10-DAY GAP IN PRODUCTION.

3. COMMENT: EXTENSION OF THE BAN ON NEW IMPORT LICENSES
IS A LOGICAL COROLLARY TO THE ONE-MONTH EXTENSION OF THE
SUSPENSION OF TOURIST AND OTHER CURRENCY EXCHANGE (REF B).
MOZAMBIQUE REMAINS IN A VERY SERIOUS FOREIGN EXCHANGE POSITION
PENDING NEW FINANCING FROM LISBON.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN EXCHANGE CONTROLS, SHORTAGE (CURRENCY), IMPORT CONTROLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 JUL 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974LOUREN00530
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740175-0065
From: LOURENCO MARQUES
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740781/aaaacrnf.tel
Line Count: 81
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: (A) LOURENCO MARQUES 477 (NOTAL); (B,) LOURENCO
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cunninfx
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 OCT 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 OCT 2002 by ThomasVJ>; APPROVED <16 JAN 2003 by cunninfx>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FOREIGN EXCHANGE SHORTAGE: IMPORT SUSPENSION EXTENDED, REFINERY TEMPORARILY CLOSING
TAGS: EFIN, ENRG, ETRD, MZ
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005